

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03927 311134Z

50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 123373

R 311100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8834

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJ: SAG REMAINS OBDURATE ON PRESS CURBS

REF: PRETORIA A-189

1. ANY HOPES THAT MIGHT HAVE EXISTED THAT SAG WOULD DRAW BACK FROM THREAT TO CURB PRESS DURING 1974 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WERE DASHED OCTOBER 30 WHEN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SUMMARILY REFUSED TO RECEIVE DELEGATION FROM NEWSPAPER PRESS UNION (NPU), THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING HOUSES.

2. IN LETTER TO L.E.A. SLATER, CHAIRMAN OF ARGUS NEWSPAPER GROUP AND PRESIDENT OF NPU, VORSTER SAID SAG'S POSITION WAS CLEAR AND NOTHING WAS TO BE GAINED BY FURTHER DISCUSSION. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE CERTAIN EDITORS HAD REFUSED TO PRACTICE "SELF-RESTRAINT" IN USE OF RACIALLY INFLAMMATORY MATERIAL,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03927 311134Z

ZI HAD NO OPTION BUT TO FINALIZE THE CONTEMPLATED LEGISLATION AND

TO PROCEED WITH MY PLANS AS ANNOUNCED AT THE
TRANSVAAL CONGRESS OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY." (TEXT OF LETTER
BEING POUCHED.)

3. REACTION TO VORSTER'S REBUFF OF NPU, ESPECIALLY IN
OPPOSITION POLITICAL CIRCLES AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS,
HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL. UNITED PARTY (UP) LEADER SIR DE
VILLIERS GRAAFF SAID REFUSAL TO MEET WITH NPU WAS "INCREDIBLE"
AND THAT PRESS CURBS COULD HAVE "DEVASTATING REPERCUSSIONS"
FOR SAG'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. DEPUTY LEADER OF
TRANSVAAL UP DR. GIDEON JACOBS PROMISED THAT UP WOULD FIGHT
CURBS "TOOTH AND NAIL". PROGRESSIVE PARTY MR MRS. HELEN SUZMAN
SAID VORSTER "HAD TO BE JOKING" WHEN HE CLAIMED IT NOT HIS
INTENTION TO SILENCE CRITICS OF SAG. MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
PERSKOR, ONE OF TWO MAJOR AFRIKAANS PRESS GROUPS, WAS SOMEWHAT
MORE AMBIVALENT. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED NEED TO CURB IRRESPONSIBLE
NEWSPAPERS BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NPU ITSELF WOULD BE ALLOWED
TO DEAL WITH OFFENDERS THROUGH "NEWSPAPER COURT".

4. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT, AFTER VORSTER'S REBUFF
OF NPU, THAT SAG WILL CARRY OUT THREAT TO IMPOSE SOME FORM OF
PRESS CURBS NEXT YEAR; WHAT FORM REMAINS TO BE SEEN. AND, LIKE
CURRENT WAVE OF BANNING AND HARASSMENT OF ITS BLACK AND LIBERAL
OPPONENTS, SAG'S OBDURATE ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESS INDICATES
OFFICIAL WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT HIGH LEVEL OF DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM IN THE INTERESTS OF INTERNAL
SECURITY, AS PERCEIVED BY GOVERNMENT.
HURD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRETOR03927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaabco.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PRETORIA A-189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG REMAINS OBDURATE ON PRESS CURBS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005